

MUNICIPAL SERVICE **for Half a Century**

(AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A SANITARY INSPECTOR)

By HAY McDONALD

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EARLY DAYS.

In the Autumn of 1895, within the time and Storekeepers office of a Depot of the Public Works Department in a prominent Midland Town, a youth of fourteen would have been observed busily engaged and just commencing on a period of Municipal Service which was to continue for half a century.

This youth colloquially referred to as Mac having in fulness of time, retired on superannuation is of the opinion that as a result of this long service, facts and details should be of interest and possibly prove of some value.

At the Corporation Depot at which he was engaged, a large number of workmen were employed, including carpenters, joiners, wheelwrights, patternmakers, blacksmiths, painters, stonemasons, gas fitters, tin plate workers; in fact members of all trades usually connected with Public Works. In many instances these workmen would have served a lengthy apprenticeship to one well skilled in the particular trade - technical schools and correspondence courses of instruction not then being fashionable. The apprenticeship indentures embossed with large red seals were to the writer very impressive with their prohibitions relating to dice and card playing, visiting public houses; and recommendations encouraging church attendance and loyal devotion to their employer and trade. To the holders their possession was valuable entitling them to fixed rates of pay and possible increases affecting the particular trade.

It might be wondered in what way this extensive variety of tradesmen were engaged, as a matter of fact any requirement of the Corporation would be tackled; making and fixing decorations for Royal Visits, making and fixing platforms, barricades, fixing up furniture in connection with election booths, making and repairing street lighting lamps and street name plates; repairing and fixing lamp posts, making good fractured gas pipes, fashioning curbstones, pattern making and building cycles for staff members, such duties would be the ordinary routine. Respecting the making up of bicycles, this was not a case of assembly, the tubes would be cut, frames brazed together, wheels built up, plating, stoving and enamelling, transfers affixed with City Arms and they were very well built sturdy and reliable machines.

These workmen started at 6-a.m., however, to the annoyance of the zealous timekeeper, (with whom the writer was attached), fifteen minutes of grace were allowed, during which

interval he would be waiting with impatience for the neighbouring Parish Church of St. Martins' to chime the quarter past; he would at this time be standing close to the entrance gate, carefully listening for the sound of any hurried approaching footsteps of a belated workman; in this case he would refrain from shutting the gate, until the banging of it closed, would be heard by the latecomer, who would then be locked out till 8-30 losing a quarter of a days pay. This procedure would produce a form of ecstasy to the devoted and zealous timekeeper, who presumably judged it as his good deed for the day.

His zeal was also exemplified by a strong objection to issuing a new article from the stores if an old one could be found, and as the article to be replaced always had to be handed in, this was usually little trouble. Previously used chisels, files, hammers, brushes and so on would be re-issued. Being left in charge of the stores for a few days the writer having wrongly informed one of the workmen of this position, the news quickly spread and a concerted requisition was handed in for all kind of stores, and those handed in were so badly damaged, as to prevent their future re-issue. In consequence upon the return of the storekeeper and much to his annoyance, for some time afterwards new articles had to be issued.

In these days of 'music while you work' it is interesting to note that this was already in operation at this Works, as the City Police Band practised on the premises twice a week. Indirectly this Band practice was mainly responsible for the entrance of the writer into Municipal Service. His father a member of the Band enjoying at the time the princely salary of 24/- weekly, plus boot money, (that then being the pay for a Police Officer after several years service) was desirous of adding a few shillings to the weekly stipend, and was naturally anxious to find a job for his son and if possible a regular one.

To this end, having a nodding acquaintanceship with the Superintendent of the Depot he prevailed on that gentleman to offer a situation. William Green (Senior) the Superintendent was an exceedingly sympathetic and generous type of man and the writer after 48 years service still retains a warm remembrance of him and esteems it a pleasure to have this opportunity of referring to his kindly attributes. He was fair, tried to give each employee good treatment and was always anxious to improve the working conditions.

After about a years service, the writer was informed that a large sewerage and drainage scheme was about to be

undertaken by the Corporation; that for this purpose a number of civil engineers had been appointed and as some youthful assistance was required, I was to make a start in the Drawing Office at the Council House. It was pointed out that this would probably lead to what the Superintendent described as a mans job.

He informed the writer of a conversation he had held with an experienced Clerk of Works engaged on this Scheme who had promised to take an interest and divulge some useful information about bricks, cement, pipes and so on. The Superintendent's last admonition was to endeavour to make an acquaintance with the story of the three wise monkeys and carefully practice their wisdom.

Shortly afterwards the writer was engaged at a Local Government Inquiry, actively taking part by exhibiting a number of plans & cartoons, showing the extremely unsatisfactory condition of the sewers and drains of a residential district of the City, in order to satisfy the Government Inspector that loan of a quarter of a million sterling was essential.

From recent observations made at somewhat similar Public Inquiries, it has been noted that this rolling up and down of plans etc. is undertaken by apparently more highly placed persons, with it is to be hoped more knowledge of the exhibited subject matter than the writer at that time.

During the carrying out of this extensive scheme, at which as it were an apprenticeship was served, frequent opportunities occurred of practising the virtues of seeing all, hearing all, and saying nothing.

The reconstruction work was carried out by Contractors under the supervision and under the direction of the Corporation Staff. It was a regular matter to accompany the Clerk of Works on his rounds of inspection and in this way many confidences and opinions were expressed, resulting in what is usually described as getting to know a thing or two. He called himself old-fashioned and many of his actions were based on past experience, for instance he would on occasions, unnoticed, quietly hand me a small portion of cement from that being used, this would be moulded, put through a testing machine for strength. Frequently this would lead to a few extra surprise visits, as he would say "everything is alright when you are about, its what goes on when you are out of sight that matters".

The class of workmen engaged on sewerage work in those

days were a type of their own; independence and candour being very prominent, quite different to that to which I had been accustomed where respect, condescension and humility were the common virtues. They called a spade a spade and not always left it at that. Their lack of complaisance towards those placed over them was particularly noticeable. As they put it, we all breathe the same air and finish up in the same place. A sojourn amongst navvies of the old school would instill into the average Corporation Servant a feeling of freedom from courtesan servitude usually only experienced during the annual vacation.

Their humour though coarse was spontaneous and often witty. The writer well remembers one fine summer morning a distinguished knight on horseback whilst passing a long line of sewer workmen affably on his part remarking to them "it's a nice morning", immediately received the reply, "yes and you seem to be having your fair share of it".

Unfortunately the introduction of mechanical drillers excavators and cement mixers disturbed their prestige and other forms of employment have been taken up and there is little doubt the entrance of this sturdy and resolute type of individual mixing amongst other classes of workmen has been a factor towards the 'Jacks as good as his master' tendencies now so often evident in many workplaces, particularly amongst the more or less unskilled type of employee.

This extensive reconstruction Scheme appeared to go on perfectly smoothly; however, from overheard conversations during which the cryptic initials E.B.S. (the Chief Engineer) were often mentioned was not always the case. In later years many of the complicated engineering difficulties overcome by an able Chief and experienced staff have become known by me.

One incident arising that may be of interest occurred while engaged measuring the length of a long brick culvert forming a watercourse, under a railway embankment; while so employed, hearing from time to time a ping or two, followed by a little rap or splash and on emerging from the opposite end of the tunnel finding a rifle target used by a Government Department for testing purposes. Naturally the Officers engaged on this work enquired as to my business and in explaining this I casually mentioned the pings heard in the tunnel whereupon they stated that now and then in finding a gun untrue, they shot the remaining bullets up the tunnel. I returned over the embankment just in case.

One other incident arising from duties in connection

with the demolition of a Church, beneath which were an extensive series of catacombs, containing the earthly remains of a considerable number of former worthy citizens. These remains mostly contained in leaden shells were to be removed elsewhere and this work was supervised by the Department. The keeping of records of those to be removed was amongst the duties required and this was carried out very early in the morning. The catacombs ran under the Church and adjoining public square and consisted of long narrow corridors, badly lighted; on each side of which were ranged a network or honeycomb of brick compartments, built over one another, each open to view and containing a leaden shell.

Early one morning in the absence of the gentleman actually in charge of the removals, I was admitted by the Verger into the vaults alone and somewhat timidly, traversed the long dismal and particularly quiet passages, fitfully lit here and there with small flickering open gas jets, in other parts quite dark and gloomy. By the time I had arrived at the position for the necessary details to be noted, thoughts had occurred to me, as to what reply I should make, to any question put to me by any occupant of one of these shells, or possibly by a number of them; as to why having laid patiently in their coffins and shells for a considerable time, they should now have to be disturbed.

In thinking this matter over I came to the conclusion that a better and possibly safer reply would be made out in the street and instead of making the required notes, hurriedly returned to the entrance gates, feeling considerably relieved yet still somewhat perturbed. Some little time later, the Verger asked me for the list and upon relating my hurried departure from the vaults and the reason for it, his reply no doubt intended to be humorous was somewhat materialistic he said "my lad, don't bother about the dead uns, it's the live uns you need fear".

CHAPTER II.DUTIES OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Having served five years with the Surveyor, and being somewhat impressed with the implied duties of a Sanitary Inspector as prescribed in the Government Order of 1891, an application was made for a transfer, and after an examination for competency in this direction, by the Chairman of the Health Committee, I was at the early age of twenty, duly appointed as an Inspector.

At that time, a fair number of the Inspectors were former tradesmen, plumbers, bricklayers, carpenters and such-like, and their practical experience in that direction was particularly desirable and important in their every day duties. The main duties consisted of the supervision of drainage work, housing repairs, factory, workshop, lodging house, bakehouse and housing inspection; preparation of reports in connection with infectious disease. Many other duties were included, respecting necessary steps in the abatement of nuisances of all kinds; in fact Inspectors appeared to be the Cinderella of the whole Municipal Service with respect to complaints received about anything, from anywhere or anyone. Gas escapes, noises arising from railway engines or other machinery; smoky chimney stacks; dilatory landlords; shops open late at night; children alleged to have the fever; unduly delayed funerals; in fact public complaints of all kinds were dealt with as a routine matter.

The requirements of the Sanitary Inspectors' Government Orders, at any rate locally, where the prescribed duties laid down are divided up and scattered about between a varying number of individuals, Departments and Committees, is worthy of mention.

In a matter of this kind, it is obvious and fully recognised that the main consideration should be the most satisfactory fulfilment of the duties in the best interests of the public service; and there is little doubt, the existing system of dividing and sub-dividing the duties prescribed in the Orders have been formulated and devised with those objects in view. However, having had more than forty years service the writer is not alone by any means in firmly expressing the opinion that this system of division of duties has been carried too far.

This splitting up between various Departments and Officers is undesirable and not always necessarily in the best public interest.

The existing system is one of development arising from an endeavour to formulate the most efficient method of application, under the prevailing circumstances and conditions operating at the particular time; however, such procedure leads to all kind of anomalies. The whole system needs impartial and competent consideration.

The present method of the division of duties resulting in an Officer having to report to and be subservient to separate Committees, whose views may or may not be co-incident, cannot be regarded as satisfactory, and the further subdivision of duties within a Department resulting in an Inspector being engaged on one section of the work only and acting wholly as a Milk Shop Inspector or a Smoke Inspector, a Canal Boat Inspector, a Lodging House Inspector, a Shops Inspector and so on; although workable, is far from economical and should be unnecessary if the work was entrusted to satisfactorily trained and experienced Officers.

There is little doubt this position has been materially brought into being by the entirely unsatisfactory issue of so called Certificates of Fitness to undertake the duties of a Sanitary Inspector.

These inaptly described Qualifying Certificates, obtained in some instances by persons within twelve months of their first acquaintanceship with any branch or connection of any section whatever of any form of public health service, entirely undermines their presumed value and considerably assists in the maintenance of the Sanitary Inspector as an orderly or do-er for Medical Officers, Veterinary Officers, Surveyors and others. That little value (apart from securing positions elsewhere) is accorded to its possession is indicated by a number of the higher paid posts being awarded to the uncertificated Inspectors.

If the future maintenance and advancement of the Office of a Sanitary Inspector is considered worthy of attainment, the rules and regulations governing the issue of Qualifying Certificates is of importance.

In lieu of a number of Examining Boards mainly consisting of members of the Medical Profession, the approved recognition of an Examining Board mainly composed of qualified and experienced Sanitary Inspectors (as recently instituted) should be granted. In this way, improvements in all directions could be achieved.

The presence of a small number of members of other professions acting in an advisory capacity and capable for

instance of examining in details closely associated with matters of a clinical nature, or of a civil engineering character, would obviously be of advantage.

While on this subject, a word on Training Courses frequently administered at Technical Schools and similar Institutions for the guidance of entrants into the Public Health Services, is worthy of mention. An examination into the suitable qualifications and experience of the Lecturers in the Subjects they are expected to expound on, would in some instances prove illuminative.

The writer still has remembrances of a nonplussed and embarrassed Lecturer on an occasion when a student enquired "in what manner the waste steam from a disinfecting station was safely dealt with". In another case at the same Institution, a Lecturer in multiplying a number by 12 on the blackboard, multiplied first by 2 and brought the top line down. Little doubt the selection of Lecturers was undertaken by persons of a similar calibre.

Weights and Measures Inspectors, Police Officers, Teachers, Surveyors, act under their own professional control. This is made possible by their more correct and stringent method of recruitment. The adoption of like methods in connection with those desirous of qualifying as Sanitary Inspectors would lead eventually to the selection of a suitably trained and experienced Chief Officer to take full control, in place of the somewhat plural and detached methods now obtaining.

In this connection it may be interesting to note that during forty years service as a Sanitary Inspector, the writer has in his duties as such, been instructed and controlled by, and acted under the directions and supervision of persons practising or formerly practising vocations of an extremely diverse character, including Corporation Clerks, Surveyors, Medical Officers of Health and newly qualified members of the Medical Profession acting as their Assistants; Police Officers, Veterinary Surgeons and several tradesmen formerly working in some branch of the building trade.

Far be it from the writers intention to disparage the earlier accomplishments or capabilities of these appointed and selected Controllers and Advisors to the Sanitary Inspector in his labours. It is respectfully mentioned to indicate the desirability of the duties of the Inspector being brought under the control of an experienced and suitably qualified person, which would lead to the discontinuance of the Inspector acting and being made use of

as an house porter or labourer in the vineyard.

In the consideration of an improved recruitment into the service, the establishment of a Training Course for Pupils is a step in the right direction; however, this Course carried on at the public expense, needs to be brought more into line with that obtaining in other vocations. It would be extremely difficult to find another example where an entirely inexperienced person, without specific knowledge of the proposed vocation would receive a salary in the neighbourhood of £150 while in training; have issued within twelve months a qualifying certificate and be appointed to a permanent and progressive salary commencing at £270 or thereabouts with prospects of rising to £450 and better positions elsewhere.

To secure such possibilities in most vocations would necessitate the payment of a premium and the serving of Articles, at no salary for several years; after which the certainty of obtaining a permanent post at a similar salary and prospects would be regarded as extremely fortunate. This training Course carried on at the public expense, should be more widely known, thus broadening the field of candidates.

There should be no difficulty in securing a sufficiency of suitable candidates, willing to undergo a longer period of training at a very nominal salary and some form of intermediate qualifying certificate is indicated.

The writer in the dim and distant past having held Office as Chairman of a Branch of the Sanitary Inspectors Association, strongly exhorts the higher command of that body to give the closest attention to the varying methods of recruitment; and in an endeavour to improve the conditions of the rank and file member, obtain trustworthy and full details of the varied conditions in force and practice in which the expressed or rather repressed duties of the Sanitary Inspector are put into effect and administered particularly in the larger Cities.

The services of Inspectors in such districts must have much in common. An adoption of the desirable methods and an attempt to eliminate those undesirable, would bring about a better and more uniform system.

An Enquiry into the varying methods of administration in the larger towns and smaller ones for that matter, would undoubtedly prove of interest and be possibly instructive. As an example, take for instance the extended duties of an Officer of the Corporation, appointed in the first instance

to look after the Corporation horses, eventually taking over and supervising many of the prescribed duties of the Sanitary Inspector. This Officer evolving later on as a Veterinary Surgeon, viewing with much concern the increased use of the motor vehicle, leading to an enforced estrangement from his old equine lover and benefactor, would naturally not readily succumb to the seductive advances of Tin Lizzie by groping amongst her innards or of exhibiting any emotional effect in any pulsating or throbbing disturbance on her part. The repressed impulses due to this enforced separation were redirected and satisfactorily sublimated to the control and supervision of fruit, fish, vegetables and meat, to the inspection of fried fish shops, butchers, grocers and fruiterers premises, markets, cowsheds, dairies, slaughterhouses, premises used for the manufacture of bacon, a la mode' beef and potted food, to the manufacture of sausage, preparation of tripe, and so on.

It is to be regarded as fortunate that up to the present the compulsory need for the redirection of repressed impulses on the part of the Surveyor, Analyst, City Architect or Medical Officer of Health, has not appeared requisite, otherwise instead of the Sanitary Inspector being used as an Orderly or Do'er, ere this his duties would have been entirely eliminated.

Alterations of this kind indicate the need for a re-examination and resetting of the prescribed duties laid down for Inspectors by the Government's Orders. These duties are very wide and difficult of satisfactory attainment by one individual and it is suggested that a revision is desirable.

In cases where the duties clearly fall within the province of one of the recognised professions, let them be freely and in entirety, handed over to them. Should it be considered requisite to have a list of prescribed duties, the Order should be framed within the limitation of satisfactory accomplishment by one person, as in other vocations. It does not necessarily follow that a person qualified to judge the origin and cause of a collection of foul smelling fluid in a cellar, will be qualified to satisfactorily adjudicate on a similar condition in a joint of veal; and other instances of disparity could be quoted.

CHAPTER III.

RISE AND FALL OF THE INSPECTOR.

The suggestion having been made that an enquiry relative to duties of Sanitary Inspectors in other towns be instituted, it may be of interest to briefly sketch their development here. The first glimpses of such an Office will be discerned locally in the appointment of an ale conner and a flesh conner acting under the direction of a Court Leet. The potent quality of beer judged by one and the fitness for food of the flesh by the other. These earlier relics of duties still attach themselves to the Inspector, with the exception that the essential duty is now undertaken by the Public Analyst and Veterinary Surgeon and his staff.

In 1768 the inhabitants held a Public Meeting and appointed a Committee to consider the desirability of petitioning the Government for an Act, enabling them to light and cleanse the streets, remove nuisances, take down an obstructive building, remove a cattle market and to levy a rate to enable Officers to be appointed to undertake the necessary work. After much opposition, (usually a corollary in connection with any form of progressive municipal ideas of this kind) the Act was applied for, received the Royal Assent thus laying down what locally may be regarded as the foundation of regular Local Government.

To administer this Act, Commissioners were selected and several successive Acts were carried out and operated by them. The Commissioners who comprised inhabitants were debarred from holding offices of profit themselves while so engaged, were authorised to appoint Street cleansers and scavengers, lighters of lamps, clerks, treasurers and other Officers as they considered fit and proper; watchmen and night constables were appointed. Nuisances of different kinds were forbidden, the use of the public highway for manufacturing purposes was checked. Later on, streets, sewers, lamps and certain buildings were vested in the Commissioners.

With variations, this System prevailed until a Charter of Incorporation was granted in 1838 with the consequent election of a Town Council. The Commissioners at this time powerful and important, considering themselves more or less permanent, were very loth to give up their management, even to the extent of appealing to the Government for the withdrawal of the Charter. In face of this attitude, they carried on until 1851, by which time the whole governing authority had passed into the hands of the Town Council.

An Inspector of Nuisances was appointed at an Annual salary of £150. At that time, a Doctor had been acting as an Honorary Medical Officer; however, he resigned in 1853

and that Office remained vacant for twenty years, until the Public Health Act of 1872 made the appointment of a Medical Officer compulsory and the Public Analyst was appointed to that position. That the public were deprived of the beneficence of such an Officer for so long, was due to the considered opinion of the Town Council, who resolved that the Inspector was a sufficient Sanitary Authority.

At the time of the appointment of the Medical Officer of Health in 1872, the Inspector had eight Assistant Inspectors, which in 1873 were increased to twelve. Their duties included the inspection and improvement of the Courts, Dwelling-houses, Lodging Houses, Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, quality of meat and other foods. The regulation of smoke from factory chimneys and of necessary measures to combat outbreaks of infectious disease. At that time the slaughtering of animals was conducted in private slaughterhouses of which there were 301.

The Inspectors Report, as printed in the First Annual Report of the newly appointed Medical Officer of Health is little short of miraculous, having regard to the small number of the staff and is sufficiently interesting to quote in full.

Number of Nuisances reported by the Inspectors and inspected.	9,882.
Notices served for the Removal of Nuisances.	8,585.
Number of Structural Works completed.	339.
Number of Visits.	49,667.
Number of Nuisances removed on service of written Notices.	9,372.
Number of Summonses issued to remove Nuisances.	509.
Persons convicted.	505.
Number of Filthy Houses.	2,671.
Number of houses where Contagious Disease existed.	726.
Number of visits to Slaughterhouses.	14,648.
Seizures of Bad Meat.	189.
Weight destroyed.	191,096.lbs
Seizures of Fish, etc.,	39.
Number of visits to Lodging Houses by day.	4,637.
Number of visits to Lodging Houses by night.	3,369.
Number of samples submitted for Analysis.	87.

Summonsing appears to have been very popular in those times, for during the first five years of the Medical Officer, an annual average of more than 1,000 were taken out, reaching in the fifth year to 1,697 summonses with 1,695 convictions.

As in those times daylight saving was unknown, much

of the work must have been carried out by candle-light. An old saying states that 'the labourer is worthy of his hire'. These hard working Inspectors were in receipt of 25/- weekly and the pay remained in that vicinity for many years, only having advanced a further 5/- up to the time of the appointment of the writer in 1901; but of this question of wages, more anon.

At the time of the passing of the Public Health Act in 1875, during the Mayoralty of the great Social Reformer, Joseph Chamberlain, a Proposal was made to appoint ten additional Inspectors of Nuisances. Before this was accepted the Council referred the matter back for reconsideration on two occasions. The Proposal was viewed with consternation by many members of the Council, who voted against the proposition on the ground that the appointment of these Officers would prove most vexatious, offensive and oppressive to the inhabitants, by subjecting them to the domiciliary visits of the Inspectors, thus violating that which had hitherto been held most dear to Englishmen, viz, the sanctity of domestic life.

Possibly this venerable consideration for the preservation of the sanctity of the inhabitants was not the only regardful persuasion for their objection to the proposal.

It was the privilege of the writer to have as working colleagues, several of the early stalwarts appointed at that time. Although in receipt of lowly paid wages, their interest in the work was worthy of emulation and they were treated by the public with deference, and particularly in the poorer districts of the City, regarded as friends. Their relationship and association with the resident medical practitioners, tradesmen, shopkeepers and occupiers generally on their Districts, were of a far more intimate and personal character than now obtains.

An attempt on the part of similarly appointed Officers to endeavour to retain such relationships would be beneficial in many ways. For the property owner, builder, shopkeeper, butcher, and so on, to feel that the authority is desirous of putting them out of business is not the attitude that will conduce to further progress in Public Health Services, rather the reverse.

Having in a somewhat scrappy manner, hastily traced the origin of the Inspector, pointed out the more comprehensive character of the Inspectors position and autonomy in Municipal Service; it may be considered of some moment to trace a commencement in the dissolution not of the monasteries, but of the pillars supporting the edifice of the Sanitary Inspectors Office.

In the first place, it is to be noted the duties were to be brought more or less under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, who was to be regarded as the pre-eminent head of the Public Health Services.

The Licensing of slaughterhouses, registration of cowsheds, dairies and milkshops, together with their inspection were transferred to the Superintendent of the Markets. To authorize the Superintendent and several Police Officers engaged at the Markets to make legal seizures of alleged unfit food, they were appointed as Inspectors of Nuisances; and one of the experienced Inspectors was transferred to that Department to assist in that connection.

From such beginnings we find a year or so later, in an Order made by the Council under the Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops Regulations dated 2nd. April 1879, the Market Superintendent mentioned by name and described as the Chief Inspector of the Local Authority.

Later on an Officer appointed as a Veterinary Officer to administer to the welfare of the Corporation horses; from time to time assisted the Medical Officer and the Inspectors in deliberations concerning the unfitness of food particularly meat.

This in course of time led to the Veterinary Officer being made responsible for the control of food inspection and of the staff engaged on such duties. The extended duties of this Officer have already been portrayed.

There is little doubt, all circumstances considered that the supervision of food control particularly meat inspection under the directions and guidance of a person qualified and well skilled in veterinary practice, and capable of arriving at a conclusion based on sound scientific grounds, is in the public interest, giving confidence to them and also to the person or persons likely to be adversely affected by the result of the inspection and judgment.

This transfer of duties detracting in some way from the former responsibilities of the Sanitary Inspector can be regarded with a certain measure of justification: however, the taking over of inspectional duties in connection with all classes of premises in use for the purpose of food storage and preparation, retail shops, fried fish shops, cafes, and so on is another matter.

Should it be considered desirable to maintain the position of the Sanitary Inspector at anything like its former level, attention should be given to a practice of entrusting

sections of the duties to Junior or Assistant Medical Officers, using the Inspectors as messengers or orderlies. The training of the Medical Officer of Health in the practical duties of his Office should not be made at the expense of the Inspector. From time to time, one listens to discussions with reference to the relationship of the Medical Officer and the Inspector, and if the recently qualified medical man about commencing in to the Public Health Service is to be given charge and control of a number of inaptly described Sanitary Inspectors, order and instruct them in their duties, there is little wonder that such discussions take place and will continue to do so.

Possibly sufficient has been stated of the suppression of the duties formerly imposed on the Inspector and of his continued progressive decline as a Statutory Officer of the Local Authority.

It is not intended to detract in any way from the important position of the Medical Officer of Health in Municipal Service: there is little doubt he should be entrusted with greater administrative power, free from local influence, with fewer requests to various Committees - more deeds in lieu of recommendations.

The Veterinary Officer appointed to a Municipality should have sufficient scope for a full discharge of his professional abilities without the necessity for encroachment into what presumably should be regarded as a Sanitary Inspectors duty.

Means should be devised whereby the interests of Sanitary Inspectors could be observed at the time Local Authorities are relegating the various duties and implied responsibilities attaching to the Office.

CHAPTER 4.

EARLY REPORTS & PRESENT PROBLEMS.

A resume of the conditions from a public health point of view, existing at the time of the compulsory appointment of a Medical Officer of Health will show or mark as it were the present improved conditions.

Probably no better way of obtaining a view of those times will be found than by a perusal of the Annual Health Reports. It would be too protracted to do further than call attention to a few of the main items, sufficient to give some general idea.

Attention was drawn to unsewered streets, viz. 190 miles of streets with 130 miles of sewers - in other words, one third of the streets had no sewer. The surfaces generally were unpaved, alternately wet sludge and dry dust.

The M.O.H. reported on a block of dwelling houses in course of erection on a site and foundation of house refuse and road sweepings, which he considered a dangerous custom. (Apparently, this was a fairly common occurrence).

The extremely bad character of the drinking water obtained from surface wells, on which a great majority of the inhabitants depended was reported on. The result of analysis disclosed that the well water was invariably polluted by animal matters, contaminated with undecomposed organic matter, both solid and liquid, of animal and excrementitious origin; with the products of the oxidation of these in the form of Ammonia, Nitrates and Nitrites; and with Chlorine - a constituent of urine.

These impurities, the Report continues, are derived from the soakage into the wells from privies, middens, dumbwells, sewers, pigstyes, graveyards!! and general surface filth. He was not at all pleased about all this and suggested that until such time that the supply could be obtained from pure sources, the precaution should be taken of cooking the organic constituents of the water and at the same time killing any living organisms or germs by boiling. One sample of drinking water, the only one for a boys school, was described as concentrated oxidised sewage.

In closely connecting zymotic disease with contamination of air and water, attention was drawn to the enormous ashpit privies and dumbwells not emptied for years; to the desirability of the early conveyance of excrementitious matter by means of water closets. However, with streets without sewers and legal injunctions restraining the Corporation from in any way polluting the streams or land in the District, they were debarred

from adopting the irrigation plan and for those reasons an intercepting system comprising the time honoured pan or pail closet known as the Rochdale System was introduced. It is interesting to note that this pleasing reminder of Gracie's home town has with up-to-date embellishments recently been re-incarnated and installed in the Air Raid Shelters.

The opinion was expressed that an efficient system of sewerage and drainage was the foundation of all schemes for the improvement of public health and that it should at all times occupy a foremost place.

Some extracts in connection with the lack of hospital accommodation for smallpox cases, absence of a disinfecting station, non-reporting of infectious disease will prove descriptive of the times.

In 1872 there had been 1977 cases of smallpox with 299 deaths and practically no hospital accommodation. The only isolation afforded at that time were a few beds (30 in all) distributed amongst several hospitals and in addition some beds in the public wards at the Workhouse - the latter for the use of paupers. The provision of an isolation hospital for smallpox patients was recommended.

In this connection, it seems strange to read that the provision of this obviously required institution was strenuously objected to, by half the medical men in the town, who signed and presented a Petition to the Council, protesting against the proposal. One of their objections was that it would be dangerous to the surrounding inhabitants. In the year 1874, the number of smallpox cases reached to 3,791 with 637 deaths.

Apparently, by this time it was beginning to look sufficiently serious to take some notice of the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health and the smallpox wards under the charge of the Poor Law Guardians were transferred to the Town Council and all smallpox patients willing to be removed for isolation were admitted to what afterwards was described as the Borough Smallpox Hospital.

The buildings were increased and a couple of wards provided for Scarlet Fever. The wish was expressed that the public would avail themselves of the excellent arrangements provided. Respecting the isolation of Scarlet Fever patients one of the difficulties later on was to get the mothers to part with their children. In cases where the children were

very young, this was met by allowing the mothers to accompany and nurse them. The public were very averse to having their children removed for isolation purposes for many years. In fact it was usually the writer's experience to meet with great opposition; however, for some years this has ceased and an opposite view taken. Many persons now-a-days express surprise and are somewhat taken aback, if informed there is no need for the patient's removal and will on occasions enquire what they pay their rates for.

The need and desirability of the provision of a Disinfection Station is referred to. One was provided and a Balance Sheet showing its cost for the first year introduced into the Report.

Wages of two men	£130.	0.	0d.
Horsekeep & Shoeing	52.	0.	0d.
Gas for Heating & Lighting	11.	11.	10d.
Coal	1.	18.	5d.
	£195.	10.	3d.

A very moderate expense for the collection, disinfection and delivery of 1,403 infected articles. It will be noticed that the wages of the men were 25/- weekly. A year or so later, the number of articles having been increased to 6,976, as a reward for their extra labours they were awarded a further one shilling per week.

Under the heading Zymotic Disease, attention was drawn to the fact that in a great majority of instances, the first intimation received of the occurrence of an infectious or contagious disease would be obtained from the weekly reports of the Registrars Returns of Deaths; rendering it very difficult to take satisfactory measures to combat the spread.

The necessity for an enactment making notification of infectious disease cases compulsory and for the Council to memorialise the Government on that question was suggested. Later on the Health Committee awarded the sum of 2/6d to each Doctor for reporting a case of infectious disease for removal to hospital.

This inducement apparently was insufficiently attractive for one reads a statement to the effect that with 200 medical practitioners in the Borough, only 17 of them reported cases during the whole year. Somewhat disappointed in referring to this disinclination to report, and in referring to the 17 Doctors who complied, the M.O.H. stated that if it were not

for the apparent invidiousness of the proceeding, he would have liked to pay just tribute to them for their high sense of professional duty, and their truly unselfish and philanthropic action by placing their names on record.

Little need be mentioned regarding views expressed on the beneficent effects of Vaccination and re-Vaccination, those views being in all respects co-incident with those now obtaining, only more so.

The lamentable infantile mortality rates were referred to and attention drawn to the improper feeding of infants, leading to the child becoming uneasy and fretful, resulting in relief being afforded by dosing with Gregory's Cordial and other opiate soothing syrups. Surprise was expressed that 1 in every 23 children who died during their first year of life were suffocated from overlying, and that one would hardly suppose a rightminded woman in a proper and sober condition except as a rare accident would be capable of lying on an infant and stopping its breath.

In this connection, the suggestion was made that an organized society of ladies, engaged to visit and instruct mothers in a simple manner on the best mode of feeding and nursing children; together with the establishment of nurseries and clinics for children would be of great value in lessening the high infantile death rates.

Regarding housing matters, a report was made showing the state of a large area in the central part of the town, necessitating demolition owing to the faulty construction, general delapidation, congestion and positive desolation of the houses, constituting a danger of the gravest kind to the health and well-being of the town. An Official Representation and an Improvement Scheme affecting more than seventy streets was inaugurated and the whole area reconstructed.

The need of the establishment of a public abattoir to replace hundreds of private slaughter houses used for the killing of animals for food, was strongly advocated; the difficulties of a satisfactory inspection made very clear. In connection with this subject, attention was drawn to the traffic in bad meat and one case reported will give an example; in a visit to the premises used for the manufacture of potted meat, meat paste, saveloys and sausage, of the meat about to be made use of, not one piece was fit for food, being diseased and putrid, running with wet; horseflesh unfit; potted meat very offensive, stale and sour, coloured red to disguise it. Part of the intended meat hidden away and a tin of red ochre with it.

A prosecution followed and the defending solicitor unable to question the unfitness of the food, made use of the defence

that the red ochre was not injurious. The Magistrates, unable to accept that as a satisfactory explanation or defence, sentenced the defendant to three months imprisonment.

As examples of the primitive sanitary conditions prevailing, an extract or two from the early Reports in connection with inspections made at one or two of the public institutions will be found descriptive.

At the Workhouse pan closets were installed within the surgical wards, drains untrapped and in direct communication with the sewers, in most of the wards; provision made of earth closets in the interior of the building.

Connected with and adjacent to the Workhouse was a Boys School situated on the first and second floors. The Privy Accommodation provided for the use of the boys consisted of rows of seats (one row on each floor at a height from the ground of 30 and 40 feet respectively through which space the dejections had to fall before finding a temporary resting place at the bottom of an immense cavern of about 12 feet square and 40 feet high. The seats forming points of entrance into the schoolrooms for the foul emanations proceeding from the mass of filth below. The opinion was expressed that from a sanitary aspect the arrangements were most barbarous and not to be equalled by relics of somewhat similar arrangements still to be found in old castles and other mediaeval structures, but unlike them, not admitting of excuse on the ground of necessity.

In summing up on the internal drainage arrangements of the whole institution including the Masters House, Surgical, Epileptic, and Aged Persons Wards, Boys and Girls Schools, the conditions were described as faulty in principle, defective in condition and entirely unsuitable, and judging from appearances alone appeared as if there had been a deliberate design to entirely ventilate the whole institution by sewer gas; similar to the system of lighting the building or laying on the water supply. Suggestions were made to overhaul the internal drainage system and for it to be remodelled on a sound sanitary basis.

Somewhat similar conditions were found at the Borough Lunatic Asylum. In connection with an outbreak of Typhoid Fever at that Institution, attention was drawn to the large number of animals kept, including 84 pigs, 19 cows and a bull. The number of pigs kept reaching at times to 280 and in addition, many fowl and horses.

Situated within twenty yards of the Bailiff's House, the Bailiff at the time laid up with Typhoid, was a large capacious

tank receiving the liquid filth from the piggeries and from a large manure heap. The tank was provided with a pump for emptying; however, it had not been cleaned out for two years. The Bailiff stated that shortly before his illness, 20 of the pigs had swine fever, 8 or 10 died, the rest he killed; the intestines and lungs were black and ulcerated and made him feel ill.

The removal of the enormous quantities of filthy and excrementitious matter was ordered and the limiting of the number of animals kept advised.

From time to time these earlier reports break away from infectious disease and nuisances and point to existing domestic and social matters; as an example, in referring to the number of the 'great unwashed' and the neglect of personal cleanliness on the part of great masses of the people, the M.O.H. advocated a greater use of the public baths; stating that of the various sanitary agencies by which health is maintained, improved and restored, few are more important than bathing, which was described as being not only healthful in its influence, pleasurable in itself, agreeable in its results, but elevating to both the physical and moral well-being. He suggested more facilities, lower entrance fees and less attention to pecuniary gain to the Borough Funds.

It was pointed out that the Romans had only a nominal charge for their use and on certain holiday occasions threw them open to the public free. The opinion was expressed that as we were slowly copying their example in connection with methods of water supply and other useful models of social economics, we could with equal advantage imitate their policy with regard to the bath.

The reprehensible custom of the public throwing out slops and other refuse on to the street surfaces, particularly on the part of occupiers of the front houses, was referred to. The streets in consequence of the litter of straw, paper, pea shells, cabbage leaves and other matters, rendered the use of the streets objectionable and unhealthy.

The unhealthy appearance of the people living in these localities, with pallid countenances, sore eyes, heads swathed in flannel, was in no small measure due to this objectionable practice.

A perusal of these early reports discloses a lamentable absence of necessary sanitary requirements and an exceedingly low standard of health services generally. So

accustomed are we to the present state of affairs that it is difficult to realize that such were the conditions within fifteen or twenty years of the entrance of the writer into Municipal Service.

Having served under the directions of the first Medical Officer of Health appointed by the Council, it has been a privilege to witness and take active part in the amelioration and general improvements, amongst which in particular may be mentioned, the abandonment of the surface well and the institution of a pure water supply, re-sewering wherever necessary; abolition of the ashpit privy, earth closet and pan privy, improved street paving and a remarkable decline in the incidence of zymotic disease.

One feature, the writer considers somewhat interesting, arises from the different causes to which Typhoid and Allied diseases have been attributed during his long service. Judged in the first place capable of being produced de novo from bad smells, excretal matter; or breathing sewer gas; suspicion passes from time to time in circles as it were, around impure water supplies, oysters and shellfish; ice cream and milk supplies; carriers; watercress, ptomaines, tinned foods and latterly, cream buns. All fashionable and receiving considerable attention in their turn. There is little doubt the list will extend in course of time.

As it is not possible to foresee the next visitation of the elusive group of bacilli now held responsible for the dissemination of Enteric and Allied diseases, it will be necessary to keep a close watch on all their former resting places and a sharp look out for any future stopping points.

Contrasting former conditions with those now obtaining, there is obviously a great difference; however, there are still many directions in which improvements are desirable and solutions still to be found.

It is, or should be possible, for one engaged in these services for half a century to have some knowledge if not of the solution, at any rate of the problem.

In this connection, the writer inter alia would suggest an investigation into the present methods and practice of disinfection of premises and articles after infectious disease, and of the requisite isolation of persons suffering with such diseases.

Practical steps taken to prevent serious nuisance in the winter time from frozen water closets and burst water

pipes; improvement in sewer and drain ventilation; business-like steps taken conducive to the cessation of the ravages of the rat; the establishment of a separate Sanitary Inspector's Dept., working in co-ordination with similar Departments in adjacent and contiguous Districts; and a revision of the expected duties of that Office; action taken that would lead to the eventual removal of the House Let in Lodgings and effectual Byelaws for their management during the interval of elimination; the introduction of impartial control in connection with slum clearance and intended improvement schemes together with fairer and equitable compensatory provision for those likely to be financially worsened; compulsory humane slaughtering and transport of all animals intended for food; increased powers with respect to materials used in the construction of new buildings and closer supervision of building operations; improved sanitary conditions relative to the storage, collection and disposal of house and other refuse and a regular routine duty imposed on the Authority to remove all refuse from factories and all premises within the district; further legislation empowering Authorities and their Officers to take where necessary immediate action to abate serious urgent nuisances in lieu of waiting weeks on end pleading with Owners and awaiting Magistrates Orders; practical arrangements installed for the satisfactory clearing of vermin from dwellings.

These problems still await efficient and satisfactory solution and should by those engaged in such matters, always receive careful judgment. Some of them arise from economic considerations in a due regard to keep down the rates. Public Health is of more importance than Local Rates and quite frequently Local Authorities of opinion that necessary steps are requisite are held back for that reason.

The transference of administration of public health services from a multiplicity of authorities to a section of the National Health Service, would in addition to solving most of the aforementioned problems, prove of immense public value in many ways and lead to considerable improvement. Anomalies between contiguous districts and in different parts of the Country could be avoided and the legislation of the Country applied evenly with one consideration only, the improvement and maintenance of public health, for which purpose the various enactments have been drafted.

A consideration of this matter could well be regarded as a problem of Post War Reconstruction.

It is not conducive to the impartial and conscientious discharge of an Officers duty, for him to entirely depend for

his appointment and rate of salary on persons likely to be adversely affected or suffer pecuniary loss by his known administrative action.

A clash of interests is in addition not unknown on the Magisterial Bench, where one will find a local Estate Agent or Food Salesman adjudicating on an associate's misdemeanours against a demand or a non-compliance with local health requirements. It would be quite easy to place on record many arguments supporting the freeing of such administrative duties from parochial control to a relegation to the State.

Such a proceeding would naturally arouse the susceptibilities of the members of Local Councils. However, the furtherance of the Public Health Service should be the only consideration. The present day fluttering and untoward commotion in the dovecots of the Municipal Nest arising from Regional Control and the attendant appointment of Commissars would quickly settle peacefully down, immediately any public benefits or advantage accrued.

It would be difficult to state any beneficial advantage that would result from transferring State Insurance or Income Tax Administration to a multiplicity of large and small local authorities, and the activities of the Public Health Service should be considered and dealt with from a similar angle.

CHAPTER 5.

SERVICE CONDITIONS - PAST AND PRESENT.

Old servants of the Corporation are frequently asked by younger members, whether Staff conditions are better than in former times; there is only one answer, yes, much better. The next question usually is, how has this been brought about. This is a more complex question to answer; there have been many factors. Frequently, the harsh, unsympathetic methods of control combined with the payment of low wages have proved their own undoing. It may be of interest to mention a local case of this nature, which is not only a good example, but probably may be regarded as a commencement in all round improvement of service pay and conditions amongst Corporation employees generally.

In case the reader may arrive at a conclusion that the case to be quoted is ancient history, it is to be understood that the writer in his early days served under the Chief Official concerned, viz., the Borough Surveyor.

Workmen engaged on public works in the Corporation employment were in receipt of varying rates of wages ranging from 21/- to 23/- weekly for a week's labour of 77 hours. The Surveyor, as Departmental Head of the Department, reduced these wages to 17/- and 19/- weekly.

It is somewhat difficult to understand how this Departmental Chief with a salary of £1200, at one time engaged in the same department at a salary working out at approximately 31/- a week, and who by remaining in the same Department and thereby in course of time succeeding to the Surveyorship, could have had the audacity not only to make the reductions but to express the opinion that he considered them to be "fair and right".

Little wonder the Local Papers took the matter up. Several Committee Meetings and a Council Debate transpired and while the Council disowned responsibility they by a large majority, supported the action of the Surveyor; some on the ground that the men were satisfactorily paid, others that a re-consideration of the matter would lessen the Surveyors dignity and the discipline over his Department.

The Council (a Liberal Council in power) very proud apparently of their economic decision, to keep the rates down, published a small book price two pence, giving a full report of the Council Debate and giving the names and manner in which the members voted.

A perusal of this Report is illuminative of the general

views then obtaining on workers wages. One Council Member, a Member of Parliament of three acres and a cow political fame in supporting the reductions, referred to full time workers in other classes of employment, in receipt of a weekly wage of 7/-, presumably the acceptance of his digging the land and milking the cow policy would have resulted in the total abolition of wages entirely, combined with the possibility of those fortunate persons so engaged doing a bit of Corporation work on a voluntary and unpaid basis in their spare time.

In connection with these reductions it is of interest to note that the workmen's protest was taken up by a Council Member proclaiming himself a Trade Unionist, an admission at that time to be considered very courageous on his part. Although on this occasion his support was unsuccessful it undoubtedly led to a closer association between the Corporation Servant and the Trade Union or Labour Movement and in this way can be regarded as the foundation stone on which Trade Union activities have since with marked success operated in the Corporation Service. From that beginning can be traced many beneficent improvements in pay and service conditions not least the Superannuation Scheme.

This idea that Union is Strength was apparently often felt and practised by the Chief Officials themselves for at the time of these reductions, eleven of them by some mutual working arrangement, in fairly equal portions shared the sum of £10,200 per annum, which presumably they only considered "fair and right" remuneration for their labours.

Such salaries would enable them to take a very academic and detached view of workmen starting work at 5.0. a.m. in the morning and finishing at 6.0. p.m. in the evening, taking their meals in the street by the side of the Corporation horse that could not be left unattended; and receiving for wages at the end of the week, 17/-, to keep together a home, and probably a large family; clinics for limitation then being unknown and such views most unpopular. By the time the workman had paid the food bill, the rent, and possibly an instalment on an outstanding Doctors Fee, there would be little need to point out the beneficent advantages of abstinence from alcohol or the illusory and injurious effects of nicotine.

In course of time, the obvious advantage of concerted action on the part of the Corporation workman, very slowly permeated into the thoughts of the black-coated worker, now fashionably designated the non-manual staff.

In the first place, a number of them joined a Clerks Association, and eventually a Municipal Officers Association

were inaugurated and a beginning made towards improvements in service conditions.

Later on a more comprehensive Association was founded the membership of which (with the exception of the Head Officials) comprised all classes of non-manual employees, administrative, professional, technical and clerical. It is not the intention of the writer who served for many years as a member of the Committee, managing and controlling this Association, known as the Municipal Officers Guild, to do other than briefly touch upon one or two past and present aspects.

One of the earliest matters to be brought under review was the varying conditions of service and rates of pay between the different sections or departments of the Corporation and between persons carrying out similar duties. A commencement was made in the introduction of a system of regulation. The former system of each department living for itself, in water-tight compartments, with ideas of its own particular importance was tackled and common standards gradually evolved.

The early Pioneers of this Association experienced a strenuous and uphill struggle for improved conditions, however, with reasonable and tactful propaganda and requests, it is pleasing to place on record the amicable and happy relationship now existing between employee and employer.

In this connection, the services of a number of persons have contributed to the successful development and present position; two names, however, stand out with great prominence, ELDRED HALLAS, a former member of the City Council and the Guild's First President; and FRANK H. CURETON, for many years Secretary and a Past President.

The former an ardent Trade Unionist and Labour Leader whose tact and assiduity secured the adoption of a minimum wage for Corporation adult workmen. He should always be remembered for his efforts in that direction. Having secured the Council's approval to its adoption, he later on made endeavours to increase the amount.

The local Press in reporting the Proceedings of one of the Meetings, referred to a question by another Member, who in pointing to the fact that the Council had previously adopted the principle of a minimum rate, enquired what amount Mr. Hallas was really aiming at. The reply, a minimum rate of 30/- weekly, caused general laughter and amazement. He had the satisfaction of eventually seeing that amount granted and increased.

His success in this direction, no doubt influenced the non-manual employee to seek his support for similar advantages.

Of the valued services of FRANK H. CURETON, it is fortunately too early to eulogize his final achievements, as he still continues with marked success to exert his talents in furthering the interests of the Municipal Service generally and of the non-manual employee in particular.

It is of interest to draw attention to several of the outstanding features attained by the Guild, viz., the institution of a staff grading scheme, regulating salary scales; holiday scales; recognized scales of pay on sick leave; the adoption of a staff widows pension scheme; granting of monetary payments in connection with the successful passing of approved professional examinations; the establishment of an organised system or scheme of recruitment for junior non-manual entrants into Corporation service; and the appointment of a Joint Committee comprising Members of the City Council and Members of the Guild for the purpose of considering matters of common interest in relation to service conditions, thus giving facilities for free discussion and joint consideration between the Council and its non-manual employees.

With a continuing keen interest in Guild matters, an earnest appeal is made to all non-manual employees in their own interests to form and maintain a 100% membership and to at all times back up the duties they impose on their selected representatives on the Management Committee.

The writer exhorts the members generally to exercise a serious and considered judgment in their selection and while their chosen representative is by his or her efforts giving satisfaction, encourage them to remain in office, thereby enabling them to obtain a mature knowledge of the work and aspirations of the Guild.

CHAPTER 6.

THE CITIZEN.

These memoirs and observations have been set down with much trepidation and the hope is expressed that they will be received in the spirit intended, one of helpfulness combined with interest.

All criticism and suggestions offered are to be considered constructive. It is to be clearly understood that many of the low standards and absence of public health requisites would obtain elsewhere.

For many years the Local Municipal Authority has been privileged to receive the valued guidance, inspiration and support of especially ardent and shrewd Council Members. In quite a number of cases their recognised high standard of public service have been transferred to high Offices of State. Several Cabinet Ministers, a Prime Minister or two, have formerly been prominent Members of the Local Council.

In addition, a number of the Officials themselves have been honoured with Knighthood and been awarded other Distinctions in various Orders for meritorious services rendered. Such tributes place on record in some measure, the recognised achievements attained by their strenuous endeavours.

Some little time back a distinguished Visitor used the expression 'the best governed City in the World'. The writer will possibly be judged as being somewhat sceptical of this transcendent controversial statement, however, pride is taken in the description applied to the town in which he received his infant nurture and also in the fact, that in some little way, his services may have been a factor in building up the good conditions and structure to which the compliment was no doubt worthily extended. In the essentials of Municipal enterprise and attainment, the City fully maintains its civic motto and continues to point the way "Forward".

Having regard to the fortuitous manner in which the City has developed and grown to its present magnitude, chiefly by absorption of contiguous partly developed districts on its borders it is very fortunate that these extensions have fitted fairly well into the larger body. The reverse could quite easily have been the position. The Local Authority of a large town should possess full control of land development surrounding its boundaries, particularly where there is any possibility of such adjoining areas later on forming part of the main

town. Town planning is of equal importance around its boundaries as within the actual area. For it to be possible without the sanction of the governing Authority of a large town to have Chemical Industries, Storage Dumps, extensive railway sidings and engine sheds established on its borders is all wrong and a bold policy of long sighted planning and development of all contiguous areas is very desirable in the satisfactory building up and formation of a City.

In bringing this compilation to a close, the writer is conscious of many shortcomings, of things mentioned which may be considered better left unsaid and of things not said which with advantage could have been; however, if any reader by a perusal of these lines, who may be engaged in Municipal Service realises that by his or her attendance to duty, or attendance at a Committee or Council Meeting, they are actively assisting in building up and maintaining the traditions in connection with useful Municipal Enterprise, the effort made in the preparation of this discourse will be considered to have been well repaid.

Biographical note: the author Hay McDonald (1881-1958), eldest child of Hay McDonald (1847-1923, a Scot who had been a private in the 14th Hussars in India) and Lucy Jane née Springett (1854-1935, a servant from Colchester), married Fanny Josephine née Levey (1877-1956) in 1902 and they had a son Hay (1902-1992) and a daughter Christina Kate (1906-1970).